

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1161

By Parkinson

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Colonel Bishop Mays on the occasion of his retirement from the Memphis Police Department.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those law enforcement professionals who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Mays is one such estimable citizen who has served with distinction for thirty years with the Memphis Police Department, having rendered sterling service as a Colonel since 2008; and

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2012, Colonel Mays will be taking a much-deserved retirement from a celebrated career in law enforcement that has spanned many societal changes and three decades; and

WHEREAS, originally from Marshall County, Mississippi, Bishop Mays moved to the great state of Tennessee in order to attend Memphis State University and embarked upon his illustrious career with the Memphis Police Department in 1982; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished tenure, Bishop Mays has excelled in a variety of assignments, including as an Instructor at the Police Training Academy, Detective in the Criminal Investigation Division, Uniform Patrol Supervisor, and Training Academy Supervisor; and

WHEREAS, as a Major in the Department, this renowned public servant took the reigns at the Internal Affairs Bureau, launched the Ridgeway Police Station, established a neighborhood watch system, and implemented a host of community outreach programs; and

WHEREAS, having proven himself to be a thoughtful and dedicated leader, Bishop Mays was assigned the formidable task of serving as a Lieutenant Colonel at the Old Allen Station, the busiest and most populated station in the entire City of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, within a year's time, Bishop Mays was named Colonel and continued expanding his innovative programs and slashing the crime rates every year since; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Bishop Mays received recognition from the Department of Justice for his groundbreaking initiatives, which drastically reduced the incidents of criminal activity in his beloved city; and

WHEREAS, the grateful people of Memphis have considered themselves fortunate to have been so selflessly served by this brave and dedicated law enforcement officer; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Bishop Mays exemplifies the values of hard work, compassion, and devotion to community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean and diligent officer of the law; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Mays has served with the utmost professionalism and integrity, winning the unqualified respect and admiration of the officers under his charge and the public alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Colonel Bishop Mays, exceptional police officer and friend to his community, for thirty years of exemplary service with the Memphis Police Department, thank him for his dedication and leadership, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.